

WEATHER OF NORTH AMERICA AND ADJACENT OCEANS

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NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

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During May the North Atlantic was unusually free from storms, and the weather was a great contrast to the generally stormy conditions that had prevailed during a large part of the period since the summer of 1925. During the current month the greatest number of gales occurred in the square between the 40th and 45th parallels and the 50th and 55th meridians, where they were reported on four days, while over the middle and extreme eastern sections of the steamer lanes stormy weather was rare.

Fog was unusually prevalent over the Grand Banks, where it was reported on 18 days, and was also more frequent than usual along the American coast and over the greater part of the steamer lanes.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressures at sea level, 8 a. m. (75th meridian), North Atlantic Ocean, May, 1926

Station	Average pressure	Departure ¹	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inch</i>	<i>Inches</i>		<i>Inches</i>	
St. Johns, Newfoundland	29.81	-0.19	30.34	30th	29.12	12th.
Julianehaab, Greenland	29.82	(²)	30.32	4th	29.26	17th.
Nantucket	29.87	-0.14	30.32	28th	29.38	9th.
Hatteras	29.93	-0.08	30.26	29th	29.58	9th.
Key West	29.98	0.00	30.12	18th	29.82	8th.
Swan Island	29.85	-0.02	29.94	15th	29.72	8th.
New Orleans	29.99	-0.03	30.18	16th	29.76	11th.
Turks Island	30.01	-0.01	30.14	18th	29.90	5th.
Bermuda	30.04	-0.04	30.28	2d	29.58	7th.
Horta, Azores	30.07	-0.07	30.52	17th	29.60	5th.
Lerwick, Shetland Islands	29.88	-0.08	30.27	2d	29.31	12th.
Valencia, Ireland	29.91	-0.04	30.30	6th	29.43	12th.
London	29.90	-0.02	30.14	25th	29.58	30th.

¹ From normals shown on H. O. Pilot Chart, based on observations at Greenwich mean noon, or 7 a. m., 75th meridian.

² Mean of 28 observations; three days missing.

³ New station; no normal established.

⁴ And on other dates.

The mean pressure of 29.82 inches at Julianehaab shows a considerable increase over the April mean of 29.29, and the former reading is probably not far from the normal for that region.

On the 1st, St. Johns, Newfoundland, was near the center of a depression, accompanied by light to moderate winds. On the same day a second LOW was central near 45° N., 18° W., and a northwest gale, force 10, was reported in 41° N., 24° W., although no other vessel in the vicinity encountered winds of higher force than 7.

On the 2d the western LOW was central near 45° N., 43° W., and the eastern near 48° N., 10° W. At the time of observation on the 2d favorable weather was the rule over practically the entire ocean, although later in the day and on the morning of the 3d moderate gales prevailed over the westerly quadrants of the eastern LOW, that on the latter date was central near 43° N., 42° W. This depression moved eastward, and on the 4th was about 300 miles west of the Azores, winds of force 3 to 7 prevailing in the vicinity. This LOW moved but little during the next 24 hours, and the weather conditions differed slightly from those of the previous day.

Charts VIII to XI show the conditions from the 6th to 9th, inclusive.

On the 10th a depression was off the American coast between New York and Hatteras. This LOW moved northeastward and on the 11th was central near Halifax, and on the 12th off the west coast of Newfoundland. On the 10th and 11th moderate weather prevailed, but on the 12th strong southerly gales were encountered over a limited area near 40° N., 50° W.

On the 11th there was also a LOW in the eastern section of the northern steamer lanes. On the 12th this LOW was over Ireland, and on both dates northerly to north-westerly gales occurred between the 25th meridian and European coast.

On the 13th an area of low pressure surrounded Newfoundland, while comparatively high pressure with moderate weather was the rule over the rest of the ocean.

On the 14th the region in the vicinity of New York was covered by a slight depression, while the weather conditions were much the same as on the 13th. This LOW moved slowly along the coast and on the 15th was in the vicinity of Nova Scotia.

On the 16th another LOW appeared off the Virginia capes and westerly gales were encountered in the southerly quadrants, although fine weather continued over the rest of the ocean. On the 17th this LOW was central a short distance south of Nantucket and on the 18th off the coast of Nova Scotia, while the westerly gales still held in the southerly quadrants. This low-pressure area remained in the vicinity of the Canadian coast until the 23d, but was not accompanied by any severe weather.

On the 19th there was a disturbance over the eastern section of the steamer lanes and moderate gales prevailed between the 15th and 25th meridians.

On the 21st a LOW between Hatteras and Charleston was accompanied by strong southwesterly gales along the coast.

From the 22d to 25th an area of low pressure covered the middle and eastern section of the steamer lanes, and during this period westerly gales prevailed between the 25th and 45th meridians.

On the 24th the American S. S. *Hannawa*, from Cristobal to New York, while in 24° 07' N., 80° 34' W., observed a large waterspout; duration, 15 minutes.

From the 25th to 31st low pressure prevailed generally over the eastern section of the northern steamer lanes, although during this period few reports of heavy winds were received.

On the 28th a shallow depression covered the region between the Bermudas and coast of Georgia, and north-easterly gales were encountered by vessels in the north-westerly quadrants.

On the 29th and 30th gales were reported near the 40th parallel, between the Azores and 45th meridian, although the majority of vessels in this region experienced light to moderate winds.

On the 31st favorable weather was the rule except for a limited area over the steamer lanes between the 45th and 60th meridians where northerly gales prevailed, accompanied by comparatively high barometric readings.